



For Immediate Release – June 14, 2013

Contacts: Cory Everett 303-894-2913
Department of Regulatory Agencies for the
Colorado Civil Rights Division
cory.everett@state.co.us

Amy Whited, Kaiser Permanente Colorado 303-746-1632
amy.l.whited@kp.org

Colorado Civil Rights Commission to Lead Discussion on Transgender Health Benefits

DENVER –Today, the Colorado Civil Rights Commission (CCRC), the Colorado Civil Rights Division (CCRD), and Kaiser Permanente have announced plans to convene a discussion, in partnership with public officials, community organizations and health industry leaders, to address transgender health benefits in the state of Colorado.

Concerns have arisen in Colorado regarding the array of covered health benefits available to transgender individuals under Colorado’s public accommodations anti-discrimination laws. As a result, the CCRC, the CCRD, and Kaiser Permanente have committed to proactively working together to consider potential solutions which could create greater access to care for transgender individuals. Other organizations and individuals will have an opportunity to participate in the discussion.

“As national and local studies have shown, the existence and implications of anti-transgender bias are severe. Thus, we are encouraged by the opportunity to engage in a meaningful process toward thoughtful, compassionate and reasonable resolution of these significant health issues for transgender Coloradans,” said Diann Rice, Chair of the Colorado Civil Rights Commission. “I can say unequivocally that members of the transgender community have suffered some of the most severe instances of bias in employment settings and their community at large that I have ever seen. The CCRC and CCRD are committed to balancing their legal responsibility to enforce Colorado’s civil rights laws with the need to create a regulatory environment that allows businesses to thrive in Colorado with a minimum of regulatory burden,” said Steve Chavez, Director of the Colorado Civil Rights Division.

“It is our hope that this collaboration will be an important first step in bringing all the interested parties and stakeholders together to better understand the issues and explore possible solutions to better serve the community,” said Dr. Jandel Allen-Davis, Kaiser Permanente Vice President of Government and External Relations.

For the past three years, the Human Rights Campaign Foundation gave Kaiser Permanente a perfect score in its annual Healthcare Equality Index survey, and named Kaiser Permanente a "Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality" for their work to provide equitable, inclusive care for LGBT patients and their families.

About the Colorado Civil Rights Commission

The Colorado Civil Rights Commission is a seven-member bipartisan panel of citizens appointed by the Governor, whose mission is to eliminate discrimination in Colorado. The Commission, in accord with the state's Civil Rights Division, is dedicated to promoting fair and inclusive communities through the enforcement of the Civil Rights laws, mediation, and education and outreach. Its statutory authority includes the power to make rules, set and recommend policy to the Governor and General Assembly, investigate discriminatory practices, review appeals, and conduct hearings regarding illegal discrimination throughout the state. For more information regarding the Commission, visit www.dora.state.co.us/civil-rights or call (800) 262-4845.

About the Colorado Civil Rights Division

The Colorado Civil Rights Division is a division of the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA). The Division works to eliminate discrimination in employment, housing and places of public accommodation under Colorado Civil Rights Laws. The Division also engages in preventative measures by providing training and information to groups and individuals regarding discrimination.

DORA is dedicated to preserving the integrity of the marketplace and is committed to promoting a fair and competitive business environment in Colorado. Consumer protection is our mission.

About Kaiser Permanente Colorado

Kaiser Permanente Colorado is the state's largest nonprofit health plan, proudly working to improve the lives and health of Colorado residents for more than 40 years. Kaiser Permanente Colorado provides comprehensive health care services to more than 540,000 members through 26 medical offices and a network of affiliated hospitals and physicians. In 2011, Kaiser Permanente proudly directed more than \$90 million to community benefit programs to improve the health of all Coloradans. For more Kaiser Permanente news, visit kp.org/newscenter or follow us on twitter @kpcolorado or facebook.com/kpcolorado.

###